

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate features from allowable claim 2, and claim 3 is amended to correct claim dependency. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2, 3 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants amend claim 1 to recite the features of claim 2 and correct the dependency of claim 3.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry After Final Rejection

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: a) place the application in condition for allowance for all the reasons discussed herein; b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration; c) place the application in better condition for appeal if necessary; and d) address formal requirements of the Final Rejection and preceding Office Action.

The allowable features in dependent claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 from which claim 2 depended. The foregoing amendments do not raise any new issues after Final Rejection. Therefore, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

II. The Claims Define Over the Prior Art of Record

The Final Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over, allegedly, “Applicant’s own admission of prior art” (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent 4,554,587 to Ooi *et al.* (Ooi); and claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of Ooi and further in

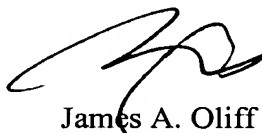
view of U.S. Patent U.S. Patent 3,988,068. These rejections are rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable features of claim 2 into claim 1. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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